now changed the old books which are to be sold by the students to their successors cannot be sold. In the case of a family where there are five or six children, the elder brother can give it to the younger brother and so on. Therefore the consumption of books becomes far less than it would be otherwise. Therefore the non-change of the text books helps the people to a very great extent because the old books are obtained at half price. For all these reasons I suppose no emphasis is too much on the question of changing the text books as seldom as possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I move that the question be put.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Since we have already accepted this recommendation and we are trying to implement the point of view I do not think any further explanation is necessary.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* There is some difference so far as I can think of. As the rules now stand if after the time of a particular book is over, Government have power to change it if there are other better books on the market.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* If the Committee finds that the book is sufficiently good, it should be given preference over other books so that it may continue. They have given the directions to the Committee.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Why not Government make up their mind that at least during the time of war we may manage with the existing books.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I thought that it would not be advisable to issue an order to the Committee and say that "you shall not change the books." Government have simply laid down the directions namely, that if the books whose prescription is going to terminate within a certain year which is found to be as good as any other its prescription should continue for another 6 years and the chances are that the rule will have the effect of the recommendation contained in the cut motion. I do not see that there will be any practical difficulty and if the Hon'ble Member apprehends that there is a fair possibility of this instructions being evaded, Government are prepared to exercise every possible vigilence in the matter.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know, Sir, when the first period expires.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* What made me anxious about it was the attitude taken up by the Committee itself, where the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur moved a resolution to stop changing the books during war even that resolution had to go for want of a seconder in that Committee. In the light of the assurance given to me that the Government have understood the true spirit of my token motion, I do not wish to press the motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* What happened in the committee was this. Mr. Ibrahim moved this motion. The committee met to approve the books and they were not concerned with the matter of the motion then. Therefore there was not anybody to second the resolution and the resolution was not considered not because they were against the proposal.

Mr. President: It was ruled out of order.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* It was not ruled out of order. For want of a seconder and a resolution being ruled out of order are two entirely different things which I think the Hon'ble Deputy President must be knowing much better than I.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Was it not on the agenda ?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* No agenda for the Text Book Committee.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 2

Supply of stationery to the students departmentally

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I rise to move *To reduce the allotment of Rs 6,816 for Deputy Inspectors, etc., by Re. 1.* My object is *(To recommend the supply of stationery to the students of the schools and colleges of the State departmentally at actual cost price during the time the war lasts).*

This is a very essential proposition, in this country where we used to write with our fingers on sand on the ground without any cost and later on on palmyra with an iron pointer. We had later the slates which would be broken occasionally and later on, we came to paper and pencil and fountain pen to boot. It is very costly, with the result that the expenditure for education mounted up terribly without the wherewithals for expenditure mounting up equally high. People's income more or less is steady and the expenditure is increasing day by day. I am glad that we have done something to effect some economy in the purchase of note books. Pencils are

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dear and cost cannot be met. Paper is equally dear. Under these circumstances it is the duty of the Government to come to our rescue and limit the use of paper and pencil and if that cannot be done, confine yourself to the blackboard and the chalk. Why should all these pencils and paper be purchased at such enormous cost for the purpose of the education of the children? I can see no reason. My cut motion requires that Government should supply it at the cost for which they are getting it. I say they should supply it even at a lesser cost than the Government could get it, by allowing a grant. People cannot get on. For one bag of rice formerly they were paying Rs. 8, now they have to pay just double. So, a person who was living with a bag of rice, now has to get on with half a bag. At least, in these directions of expenditure Government must give a grant to the people. You are getting money by the Excess Profits Tax, you are getting wind-falls in other incomes, in the customs and other things. So give the people something. If the people die and starve, Government will also starve and die. The man at the top of the ship should not think that the hole is only at the bottom and therefore he is safe. The poor people should not starve. So, Government should come to their rescue. I have, therefore tabled this motion and I hope that the Government will be pleased to sympathetically consider and supply paper and pencil at a reasonable cost. By doing that, you are only making an advance, or else stop the schools for the time of the war. What is the harm? Let two years run on. No harm is going to be done. If you are going to run the schools and colleges, give a grant for pencil and paper. Ordinarily, I won't be a party to tabling such motions here. But when the times are extraordinary, the situation is extraordinary and the people are faced with extraordinary circumstances we want Government to rise to an extraordinary height and say, here we are to help.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: The wording of the cut motion is "at actual price". Now he is saying there must be a reduction.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: I am sorry my friend did not think that I am telling, that even at the cost of a lesser price you ought to give, but at least give it at the cost price. But I have not tabled the proposition because of the economic troubles confronting the Government, as it is not possible to drive humanitarian points of view into their minds. Therefore I said, give at least at cost price. I therefore request the Government to sympathetically consider the proposition in the interests of the country.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: In supporting this motion, I wish to make one more suggestion than that made by the Hon'ble the Mover. That is this. I would request Government to supply ink free to the children who go to school. It looks a very small matter. In former days—my school days we were all supplied with ink in schools for writing copies or examinations. Now what happens is the students are asked to bring their own ink and you will find thousands and thousands of these boys and girls purchasing small bottles and carrying it to school. Sometimes they spoil their dress, they break the bottles and they bring different varieties of ink and even theft is encouraged.

Mr. President: It does not arise out of this cut motion.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: I do admit that technically I may be not in order. But it is in agreement with the spirit of the cut motion. If the Hon'ble President thinks that I go out of the way, I have no objection. It is an additional saving during this time of war.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Although the cut motion as it is tabled here contains only one point, the supply of stationery at cost price, in the course of the discussion, Hon'ble Members suggested that as a palliative of the situation, Government must instruct the school authorities that they may resort to slates instead of note books and I should inform this Hon'ble House that more than 3 or 4 months ago a very clear order has been issued to all the schools to the effect that children attending the primary classes and boys and girls who are studying in Forms I, II and III should be allowed free use of slates in the place of note books and only where a record of the work has to be kept till the end of the year, small note books may be necessary and even there the compulsion will be entirely proceeding from the boys themselves.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: What about copy writing?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: There are two things that are being written. One is the copy writing and the other is transcription and transcription we have more or less done away with. With regard to copy writing I think it is one of the elementary needs. The member knows that we have got slates in the very lowest classes. In the higher classes unless you have got some sort of guidance it will be very difficult. So consistent with the minimum of the elementary needs of education we have ordered all possible things.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether the students are asked to do home-work either in Arithmetic or subjects of that kind and that in paper?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* We have even now said that the number of books should be reduced to a minimum. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Member is quite right in saying that. It must be a conviction as a result of a fairly large experience that if the teacher and the pupil co-operate in doing the work conscientiously, there is absolutely no meaning in carrying this and getting this work done at home. So the home-work has been reduced to an irreducible minimum.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* It is very doubtful whether these directions are being carried out. I have got my own children who go to school. They have got a number of note books. No slate also. How such a state of affairs came about I do not know. If a direction or instruction has been given as stated by the Education Member, nobody sees whether these instructions are followed or not. I would request the Education Member to see that the circulars issued to the various institutions are being carried out so that we might have some sort of relief by way of unnecessary expenditure.

Rao Sahbi I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* An order of this nature can only be permissible. If a parent would select the use of paper we cannot stop that. The authorities of the school will not insist on the use of unnecessary books in classes 1 to 4 and forms 1 to 3.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Should not the parents know that there is a circular issued by the department? That is the difficulty.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* From a perusal of all these cut motions, I am driven to this conclusion that this department suffers from lack of publicity. I think I ought to have published most of the circulars in the Gazette, if it were possible to find room.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* If I had known that there was such a circular I will certainly do what is necessary in the matter. But should not the people know that as a matter there was this circular issued by the Education Department.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* From a perusal of all these cut motions I am driven to the conclusion that this department is suffering from a lack of publicity. I think I ought to have published these circulars, if it were possible to find space. I can certainly assure the Hon'ble Member that if there has been an instance in which these instructions have been violated by any individual educational institution I will correct it. But there is the other side of the cut motion, namely, providing school requisites at Government cost to be recovered from the pupils. Already the Government have commandeered rice and perhaps kerosene. I think it will be a very great responsibility for the Government to handle school requisites also on top of all these.

Secondly, the price of paper has already been fixed. Paper cannot be sold at any price which the dealer likes so that the effect of commandeering has been very nearly achieved by the fixing of the price of paper by the price officer.

I would like to point out another fact and that is if it is difficult to stock rice and kerosene at different centres at fixed prices it must be much more difficult to stock the essential school requisites at much more different centres.

Finally I do not think the actual situation requires anything more than fixing the price. Prices have been very strictly fixed and I have personally made enquiries in the market and found that whatever be the case with regard to other things, school requisites especially paper, is being sold at the prescribed prices. Government have undertaken enormous responsibility and I do not think they will be justified in accepting this additional task of commandeering school requisites also. I fully sympathise with all that has been said in defence of the domestic budget. I do realise that the cost of education to individual parent is mounting up but not because of anything that the Government has done or has left undone but because of the war conditions. Every attempt to palliate the difficulty of the situation has been made by the Government as far as I can see. So that I do not think that at present there is any justification for Government to accept this additional responsibility of stocking school requisites in Government depots or at Government initiative.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I am not satisfied with the sympathetic but unhelpful reply of the Hon'ble Member. The difficulty of handling is there, I admit. But somebody has to handle these difficulties and the paid department of the State, paid from the taxes collected from the people must handle the difficulties. That is my answer as far as the handling of difficulties are concerned.

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Then the second point raised by the Hon'ble Member is the fixing of prices. That has been done. And I will tell the Hon'ble Member that that has always been undone by the crafty merchants. I will tell the Hon'ble Member or the official part of the House that whenever a price is fixed at a particular figure for rice, the merchants have been always selling it one rupee higher and sometimes they have been selling, when it suited them, at one rupee lower than the price fixed. So your price fixing is absolutely of no practical effect in the economy of the land.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: In the case of most of these High Schools School Co-operative Societies have done a lot in this direction.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Yes, I shall come to that. You have school co-operative organisations and you have these price fixing organisations. As far as the price of paper is concerned, I may assure the Hon'ble Member that I have got a lot of personal experience in that matter and you cannot get paper at the price that you fix in the market. That is an absolute fact. If you ask for a little better paper, you will have to pay a little better price and so on. There is scarcity of paper also. For instance, we in the profession cannot get enough paper for our purposes except at enormously inflated prices and that is a fact. What is the use of saying because prices have been fixed by *ipsi dixit* by the Government, papers can be had at that price. Then you say, if you do not get at the fixed price you come and give us a complaint. Suppose a boy is given a sheet of paper worth two pies for half an anna. You mean to say, that that boy should complain "Look here, I had to give six pies instead of two for a sheet of paper to this merchant. There must be a prosecution against him in the criminal court and he must be punished". Is that practical politics? I am sory the Hon'ble Member has trotted out that as an argument.

Then as regards stocking difficulties. The minimum quantity of paper that will be required should be known to every Headmaster of a school and it is very easy to stock articles for the use of six months. We have got 400 to 500 schools in the State. It is a very happy thing to mention, because in a small State like this we have got so many schools. You can give the stock to the Headmasters and they would distribute them, and recover the money. The only thing is the initial cost. What is it going to be? What is the interest that you are going to suffer. You get 2 per cent from the Bank for your reserve. I can assure you that there will be no objection from any parent to give three per cent. You may add three per cent more to the cost price and recover your interest. Therefore, Sir, this stocking difficulty is another argument trotted out for shirking the responsibility.

Sir, my Hon'ble Friend, the Member for Education said "We are not going to take any additional responsibility. The present responsibility is enough for our shoulders." Sir, that has fallen very flat on my ears. Yesterday, I heard that the Minister had saddled the Hon'ble Member for education with an additional responsibility regarding the rural libraries.

The matter is very simple, Sir. The Finance Member has to find an advance of a lakh of rupees and distribute that lakh of rupees to the schools as advances recoverable and there is an end of the matter. We are not asking you for charity. We are telling you that we are prepared to pay the cost. What we want is make the paper available at reasonable cost. This is the request. We know the price has been fixed. The merchants are not there to obey the order of the Government. When they are forced to pay they will obey. They are there to make money. They will find some means to escape the order. There are hundreds of methods. People will always go in advance and the legislation come behind it. Therefore, that is no answer. The plain question is, a reasonable request is made and if the Government is not prepared to accept a reasonable request, all that we can do is to press the motion to a division and take the verdict of the House.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: May I know when this order that as far as possible slates should be used sent?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: It was soon after the reopening. I think it is somewhere in Edavam.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: Had the students time to avail themselves of this order?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Certainly.

Mr. President: The motion is lost.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: A poll, Sir.

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Ayes

1	Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon	17	Mr. P. Achyutha Menon
2	„ C. R. Iyyunni	18	„ K. M. Ibrahim
3	Mr. C. R. Iyyunni	19	„ A. L. Antony
4	„ A. B. Salem	20	„ K. Ashtamoorthi Namboodiripad
5	„ P. K. Madhava Menon	21	„ C. Kunjan Nambudiripad
6	Dr. A. R. Menon	22	„ C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiripad
7	Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar	23	„ K. R. Achyuthan
8	„ V. J. Mathai	24	„ B. M. Peter
9	„ V. N. Damodaran Nambiar	25	„ N. Govinda Pai
10	„ V. K. Bhaskara Menon	26	„ C. J. Luiz
11	„ C. K. Nayar	27	„ S. S. Koder
12	„ C. V. Iyyu	28	„ T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar
13	„ T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar	29	„ K. R. Ramakrishnan
14	„ M. K. Devassy	30	„ N. V. Subbarayan Chetti
15	„ T. P. Poulose	31	„ P. K. Krishnan
16	„ K. S. Panicker	32	„ V. K. Kutty

Noes

1	Mr. P. V. Raphael	6	Rama Varmah Tampuran
2	„ V. K. Aravindaksha Menon	7	Dr. T. Verghese
3	Rao sahib I. N. Menon	8	Mr. C. J. Mathew
4	Mr. M. Raman Menon	9	„ K. Karunakaran Nayar
5	„ A. Madhava Prabhu	10	„ Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur

The motion is carried, 32 voting for and 10 against.

CUT MOTION No. 3

Sale of text books

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Sir, I move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,816 for Direction and Inspection by Re. 1.* My object is *(to bring to the notice of Government that the text books are sometimes sold at prices higher than those fixed by Government.)*

Sir, we have been listening to the hardship that the parents are experiencing in these days in the matter of their children's education. Here is still another instance of that kind. When the Text Book Committee or the Government prescribes a book they also fix the price for which these books should be made available and should be sold. They also fix the quality of the paper and insist upon many other conditions. I do not want to go into those details. As a matter of fact the books are sometimes at prices much higher than the prices fixed by the Government. Sir, I shall take one instance, the Arithmetic book for the Third Form class. The price fixed by the Department is 12 annas and you will find on the book it is printed even as 14 annas. I don't know how. I found several books. I found from the Gazette that the price of the book is only 12 annas. As a matter of fact I can show you hundreds of books where it is printed 14 annas and I know as a matter of fact that they are sold at 14 annas unless the student knows the rule and makes a protest before the book-seller. There are other instances. I forgot the name of another English Book. The price is fixed at 7 annas but it is sold at 8 annas It is coming from Madras. I can also tell the Government that books are sold on an average at the rate of 1 anna in excess per rupee. I therefore say it is a matter over which the Government should exercise some more control over the suppliers of these books. The Government knows that it is really a patronage extended to a particular section of the public and they are certainly enjoying a monopoly. For instance, a copy book which is priced at 1 and a half anna if you allow others to compete they will give you the same copy book with better paper for a much-lesser price. Sometimes 50 per cent and sometimes 20 per cent less. I am bringing these things to the notice of the Government just to show that the Government are giving a monopoly to a particular section of the public and they are making huge profits from it. But let them not take undue advantage of that at a time when every man is adversely affected on account of the war. I therefore submit that the Government should immediately make a searching enquiry and bring all these delinquents to book.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I rise not to dilate upon the point but to point out to the House the unanimous expression of the condemnation of the public as shown by the voting on the last motion.

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